

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated November 30, 2005. Claims 1-4, 7, 9-12, 15, 17-20, 23, 25-36 are presented for examination, of which Claims 1, 9, 17, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33 and 35 are in independent form. Claims 1, 9, 17, 25, 27 and 29 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention. Claims 31-36 have been added to assure Applicant a fuller measure of protection of the scope to which he deems himself entitled. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1-4, 7, 9-12, 15, 17-20, 23 and 25-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,154,787 (Urevig).

As shown above, Applicant has amended independent Claims 1, 9, 17, 25, 27 and 29 in terms that more clearly define what he regards as his invention. Applicant submits that these amended independent claims and newly added independent claims 31, 33 and 35, together with the remaining claims dependent thereon, are patentably distinct from the cited prior art for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 is directed to an information processing apparatus including: (1) management means for managing information of a first shared device managed by the information processing apparatus; (2) selection means for selecting a group comprising a plurality of devices including the first shared device and a second shared device managed by another information processing apparatus; (3) reception means for receiving information of the second shared device included in the group selected by the selection means from the

other information processing apparatus, the received information including information of the second shared device comprising an updated status and a connected condition; (4) recognition means for recognizing whether at least one of the first and second shared devices has been updated regarding its status, in accordance with the information received by the reception means; (5) renewal means for updating the information on the status and/or a connected condition of the second shared device in accordance with a recognition result made by the recognition means; and (6) display means for displaying the information on the status and/or the connected condition of the second shared device updated by the renewal means and the information of the first shared device managed by the management means on a same screen of the display means.

Among other notable features of Claim 1 are (1) selection means for selecting a group comprising a plurality of devices including the first shared device and a second shared device managed by another information processing apparatus and (2) display means for displaying the information on the status and/or the connected condition of the second shared device updated by the renewal means and the information of the first shared device managed by the management means on a same screen of the display means. By virtue of the structure recited in Claim 1, the selection means can select any second shared device managed by any other information processing apparatus.

Urevig relates to a method and apparatus for allocating peripheral devices between autonomous computer systems. The apparatus includes a cross system automation component including the Single Point Autoaction Message System (SP-AMS), which

allows batch or demand runs on the host computer system to send messages to a Single Point Operations (SPO) Console, which monitors and controls multiple computer systems from a graphical display. Incoming resource requests sent to the SPO Console through the SP-AMS are recognized by the message automation facility, and a Shared Tape Drive Manager (STDm) is notified of the request for additional resource. The STDm then identifies available tape drives, and sends a message to the source computer system to re-assign the tape drive and, after the tape drive is unassigned by the source computer system, the STDm instructs the requesting host computer system to take assignment of the tape drive.

Urevig discusses grouping devices in accordance with their attributes (see Column 6, lines 26-44). However, Applicant has found nothing in Urevig that would teach or suggest “selection means for selecting a group comprising a plurality of devices including the first shared device and a second shared device managed by another information processing apparatus” or “display means for displaying the information on the status and/or the connected condition of the second shared device updated by said renewal means and the information of the first shared device managed by said management means on a same screen of said display means,” as recited in Claim 1.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicant’s opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as a reference against Claim 1.

Independent Claims 9 and 17 are method and computer readable memory

claims, respectively, corresponding to apparatus Claim 1, and are believed to be patentable over Urevig for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 1.

Claim 25 is directed to an information processing apparatus including: (1) management means for managing information of a first shared device managed by the information processing apparatus; (2) selection means for selecting a group comprising a plurality of devices including the first shared device and a second shared device managed by another information processing apparatus; (3) obtaining means for obtaining information on a status or a connected condition of the second shared device included in the group selected by the selection means from the other information processing apparatus; (4) recognition means for recognizing whether at least one of the first and second shared devices has been updated regarding its status and/or connected condition, in accordance with the information obtained by the obtaining means; and (5) display means for displaying, on a display of the information processing apparatus, the information on the status and/or the connected condition of the second shared device, in accordance with a recognition result made by the recognition means, and information on a status and/or a connected condition of the first shared device in accordance with the information managed by the management means.

For substantially the same reasons as discussed above with respect to Claim 1, Applicant has found nothing in Urevig that would teach or suggest “selection means for selecting a group comprising a plurality of devices including the first shared device and a second shared device managed by another information processing apparatus” or “display

means for displaying, on a display of said information processing apparatus, the information on the status and/or the connected condition of the second shared device, in accordance with a recognition result made by said recognition means, and information on a status and/or a connected condition of the first shared device in accordance with the information managed by said management means,” as recited in Claim 25.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicant’s opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as a reference against Claim 25.

Independent Claims 27 and 29 are method and computer readable memory claims, respectively, corresponding to apparatus Claim 25, and are believed to be patentable over Urevig for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 25.

Claim 31 is directed to an information processing apparatus that manages a first device. The apparatus includes: (1) designation means for designating a group comprising a plurality of devices including the first device and a second device managed by another information processing apparatus; (2) obtaining means for obtaining first device information on the first device from the first device, and second device information on the second device included in the group designated by the designation means from the other information processing apparatus; and (3) display means for displaying a status and/or a connected condition of the first and second devices based on the first device information and the second device information obtained by the obtaining means.

For substantially the same reasons as discussed above with respect to Claim 1, Applicant has found nothing in Urevig that would teach or suggest “designation means for designating a group comprising a plurality of devices including the first device and a second device managed by another information processing apparatus” or “display means for displaying a status and/or a connected condition of the first and second devices based on the first device information and the second device information obtained by said obtaining means,” as recited in Claim 31.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicant’s opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as a reference against Claim 31.

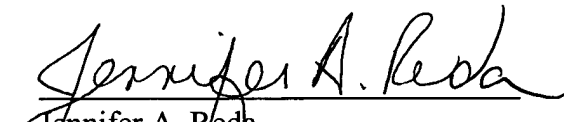
Independent Claims 33 and 35 are method and computer readable memory claims, respectively, corresponding to apparatus Claim 31, and are believed to be patentable over Urevig for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 31.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration or reconsideration, as the case may be, of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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